

Dear Friends:

I am proud of Montana's education system and honored to be leading efforts to build a bright future for our students. We have remarkable resources and talent in our communities, schools, and families. Our excellent public education is built on educators, students, parents, business and community members working together to invest in Montana's future. I am pleased to present the informative "Facts About Montana Education." To learn more about K-12 education in Montana, I invite you to visit our Web site at www.opi.state.mt.us.

Linda McCulloch
Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent

About the Big Sky State

- Population: 902,195 (2000 Census); 909,453 (2002 Estimate)
- Size: 147,046 square miles (fourth largest state)
- Population density: 6.2 per square mile (2000 Census)
- Racial makeup: White 90.6%, American Indian 6.2%, Hispanic 2%, Asian .6%, Black .3%, Other .6% (2000 Census)
- 570 miles long, 315 miles wide
- Western one-third mountainous and timbered
- Eastern two-thirds plains with occasional mountains
- Elevation range: 1,820 to 12,799 feet above sea level
- Borders three Canadian provinces and four states
- Headwaters for two major rivers—Missouri and Columbia
- Seven Indian reservations
- Primary industries: agriculture, services, government (including education), retail trade

For More Information About Montana, contact:

- www.state.mt.us
- Travel Montana (406) 841-2870 or <http://visitmt.com>
- The Census & Economic Information Center (406) 841-2740 (<http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us/>)

Montana Postsecondary Education

Supervision of Postsecondary Education

- Board of Regents*—Appointed by governor
- Supervision and control of Montana University System and coordination of other assigned educational institutions

Postsecondary Institutions

2001-02	
Number of Institutions: Four-year units—6	
Colleges of Technology—5; Public Community Colleges—3	
University System Enrollment	32,090
Full-Time Equivalent Resident Enrollment (FTE)	25,566
	Both record highs
Out-of-State Student FTE	6,523
Expenditures per student	\$6,670
Higher Education Appropriations (in millions)	\$113.4
Higher Education Appropriations per capita	\$149
10-year change in Higher Education Appropriations—Montana	7.0%
10-year change in Higher Education Appropriations—Peer States*	51.8%

*Peer States: Arizona, Idaho, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington
Source: Montana Office of Commissioner of Higher Education

Degrees 2001-02

Montana's various public institutions of higher learning award about 6,900 degrees every year. Of those, about 69% are bachelors' degrees; 14% masters' degrees; 16% associate degrees; and 1% doctoral degrees, first professional degrees, and certificates.

For more information about postsecondary education in Montana, call the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education at (406) 444-6570 or visit their Web site at www.montana.edu/wwwoche.

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FACTS ABOUT



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Montana Public Schools: Elementary and High School

Supervision of Public Schools

Superintendent of Public Instruction—Elected, Executive Branch of Montana State Government

- General supervision and administrative duties

Board of Public Education—Seven members appointed by Governor, State Superintendent is ex-officio

- General supervision and policy

School Districts

	2002-03
K-12 districts	55
Combined elementary (<i>joint boards</i>)	105
Combined high school (<i>joint boards</i>)	105
Single districts (<i>172 elem, 5 hs</i>)	177
State-funded districts	2
Nonoperating and annexed districts	8
Total Districts	452

Certified Staff (*Full-Time Equivalent*)

	2002-03
Teachers - Classroom, Title I, Special Ed.	10,362
Superintendents and Asst. Supts.	152
Principals and Asst. Principals	499
Other - Central Office Program Coordinators	150
Specialists - Library, Guidance Counselors	790
Special Education Directors, School Psychologists	85
Total Certified Staff FTE	12,038
Paraprofessionals	1,731
Total Staff	13,769



Per Pupil Expenditures 2001-02

Montana: \$7,080 National Average: \$7,524
Montana ranks 30th in the nation

U.S. Department of Education, NCES Quick Tables & Figures

Montana Public School Enrollment

	2001-02	2002-03	% change 2002 to 2003
Elementary			
Prekindergarten	506	661	
Kindergarten	10,068	9,898	
Grades 1-6	67,473	65,790	
Grades 7-8	24,451	24,568	
Ungraded	130	121	
Total Elementary	102,628	101,038	-1.5 %
High Schools			
Grades 9-12	48,998	48,577	
Ungraded	125	186	
Total High School	49,123	48,763	- 0.7%
State-Funded Schools*			
Elementary (PreK-8)	43	44	
High School (9-12)	153	150	
Total State-Funded Schools	196	194	- 1.0%
Total Public School Enrollment	151,947	149,995	- 1.3%

* The state-funded schools are Pine Hills School, Riverside School and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.

Student/Teacher Ratio

	2000-01	2001-02
Montana average	14.9	14.9
National average	16.0	15.9

U.S. Department of Education, NCES Quick Tables & Figures

High School Graduates 2002

High school graduates 2002	10,554
GED* recipients (ages 16 to 19)	1,021

* General Educational Development

Montana High School Dropout Rate

1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
4.1%	4.1%	4.2%	3.8%

From Montana Statewide Dropout Report 2001-02



Test Scores

	2000		2001		2002	
	<u>MT</u>	<u>Natl.</u>	<u>MT</u>	<u>Natl.</u>	<u>MT</u>	<u>Natl.</u>
SAT*						
verbal	543	505	539	506	541	504
math	546	514	539	514	547	516
ACT**	21.8	21.0	21.7	21.0	21.7	20.8

*Scholastic Aptitude Test—In 2002, 23% of Montana graduating seniors took the SAT.

**American College Testing Program—In 2002, 52% of Montana graduating seniors took the ACT.

Advanced Placement (AP) Course Work

	2000	2001	2002
Number of Test Takers	1,596	1,688	1,886
Number of Exams	2,249	2,368	2,763

Other Testing

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

<u>Tested Area</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Score Nationwide</u>
math	4th	2000	13 th highest
science	4th	2000	11 th highest
reading	4th	2000	8 th highest
math	8th	2000	4 th highest
science	8th	2000	3 rd highest
reading	8th	2000	6 th highest
writing	8th	2000	12 th highest

Nonpublic Schools K-12

Self-Reported Nonpublic School Enrollment

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Private	8,537	8,431	8,286
Home school	3,627	3,571	3,788
Total	12,164	12,002	12,074

Statistics in this brochure are the most current available as of June 2003.